Recommendation Regarding Minimum Daily Wages

†1738. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made a recommendation to fix minimum daily wages at Rs. 80 per day in the country;

(b) if so, the date on which this order was issued and the date from which it was decided to be enforced;

(c) whether the said decision will be implemented under the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Floor Level Minimum Wage has been revised from Rs. 66/- to Rs. 80/- per day with effect from 01.09.2007.

(c) and (d) The revision of National Floor Level Minimum Wages by the Government is a non-statutory measure. Thus the State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to revise the minimum wages upwards so as to ensure that in none of the scheduled employments, the minimum wages are less than the national floor level minimum wage of Rs. 80/- per day.

Until the Central Government specifies the wage rate for workers in respect of different areas under section 6(1) of the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Act, 2005, the minimum wages fixed for agricultural workers by the State Governments/Union Territories under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area in view of the provision under Section 6(2) of the NREG Act, 2005.

Bonded labour and child labour

†1739. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements of programmes run by Government for the elimination of bonded labour and to stop child labour during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) whether regional organizations and NGOs are extending their cooperation in these Governmental programmes for elimination of bonded labour; and

(c) if so, details of the bonded labourers and child labourers freed by Government during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In order to rehabilitate the released bonded labour, the Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour since May 1978. The Scheme provides for rehabilitation assistance of Rs. 20,000 per bonded labour, which is equally shared by the Centre and State Government on 50:50 basis. During the last five years, 6123 bonded labourers have been identified and rehabilitated.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.